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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 9

May 9, 1942

CALIFORNIA (May 1).--For farm fire protection 2,247 rural fire companies organized with membership 24,338 volunteer fire fighters. All companies have attended at least 2 training meetings. Object - protection farm buildings, crops, and grasslands from fire, regardless of cause. Home demonstration agents organizing and training strategically located groups farm women to furnish meals to firemen when fighting fires in their communities. Demonstrations in treating clothing to be fire-resistant conducted all counties.

Both iodine and chlorine treatment water to prevent contamination demonstrated throughout all rural areas. State Defense Council and State Board Health cooperating.

Due shortage bagging materials, farmers in 32 important grain-growing counties given information, through meetings, on bulk handling grain. As result, bulk storage for approximately 10 million bushels grain available on farms and at county shipping points.

Thirty-two nutrition institutes held April, attendance 10,000. Subjects discussed - food production and conservation, adequate diets, vitamins. Motto of home-management projects - "Eat it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without". Projects include adjustment family routine and organization to meet civilian defense, conservation and care clothing, home equipment, and furnishings, adjustments family money management.

Assistance given new and inexperienced vegetable growers who have taken over farms formerly operated by Japanese. Assisting BAE and State and county War Boards in study of 1943 production capacity.

On April 3, Governor signed project authorizing Extension Service to recruit and enroll rural men and boys into a State militia, for duty behind the lines in case of attack by the enemy. Each person enrolled must be American citizen or a national of one of the United Nations; be a male between 16 and 63; possess a competent rifle or have demonstrated ability as a marksman; be willing to serve without pay in a State militia for local use. The Extension Service's responsibility is to present the project to rural people, organize focal points for enlistment, assist enrollees to organize into groups. Enlisted personnel will then be turned over to proper State authorities.

LOUISIANA (March).--Emphasized during month more home gardens, soybean and peanut production, poultry and eggs, milk, and meat supplies. Definite increase in number of home gardens indicated as result of intensive educational program. Number of chicks to be grown this spring estimated to be 15 percent greater than average for past 5 years. February 1942 sales of milk in New Orleans milk shed 17.42 greater than February 1941 sales.

Importance of improving State's meat supply emphasized in five 4-H livestock shows.

At meetings held throughout State, Negroes, especially tenants and sharecroppers, were urged to grow ample supplies of food for home use and preservation.

Better-balanced meals to improve health of rural people emphasized at program meetings held throughout State by home demonstration agents and nutrition specialist.

MONTANA (May 1).--Over 2,000 farm leaders, men and women, developing county reports on productive capacity of their areas as basis for 1943 production goals. Extension staff will assist in combining to make State summary.

Milk production information will be currently available to county agents and War Boards through plan completed to use State dairy division area figures. AMS and AAA cooperating.

At 11 district conferences county agents considered methods to maintain accurate information on progress in production in relation 1942 goals.

State labor subcommittee and county labor committees engaged in locating, training, and utilizing available man, woman, and youth power. Already women are effectively relieving a somewhat acute situation. County agents chairmen of county labor committees and county agent leader on State committee.

4-H enrollment 75 percent completed, interest centering on food production and conservation projects. Seven-point Victory program enthusiastically received. Plans under way for State convention in June to emphasize leader training.

Information includes bulletins on Poultry Houses and Poultry Equipment, Irrigating the Family Garden, Home Storage of Vegetables, Preservation of Vegetables by Salting and Brining, 8 leaflets on insects.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (May 1).--Reports indicate practically every farm family will have a garden, and number other gardens will reach new high. Number enrolled in 4-H garden projects more than doubled.

- Held more than 25 neighborhood meetings in all sections to obtain farmers' reactions to present conditions, plans for 1943 production. Meetings continued and background material being gathered for preparation report 1943 production outlook in State.

Working with fruit and vegetable growers on packaging problems. Plans drawn to make spray warning service timely and complete, using radio and newspapers. Weekly news-brief service covering markets, prices, supplies, and war adjustments prepared. Dissemination information on offsetting shortage of roughage. Folder "Mobilizing New Hampshire Forage Resources" distributed.

Clothing meetings largely devoted to work clothes for women on farm and in industry, and remodeling garments. "Yardstick of Good Nutrition" distributed more than 50,000 families at local group meetings. "Substituting for Sugar" now in press.

Assisting in fire-control organization in every community. 4-H fire project greatly expanded, includes 4-H Fire Rangers for boys 10 to 15 with emphasis on prevention, and Junior Fire Fighters for boys 15 to 21 as auxiliary to adult forest fire fighting organization.

More than 3,000 young people enrolled 4-H Victory Volunteers during Mobilization Week, bringing State total to new high of more than 9,000.

Plan for final clean-up in scrap collection drawn up at several meetings representatives War Board, OCD, WPA, and Extension. Plan involves direct mail campaign to reach every rural home, compilation of information for use local OCD salvage chairmen, collection scrap by WPA trucks. 4-H Club members continuing collection with good results.

NEW JERSEY (April 22).--Dairy program meetings held all counties, recommended adjustments and feeding and management practices discussed.

Victory Garden program well under way in every county. County advisory committees have been organized and series local training meetings about completed each county. Garden information being furnished every farm family in bulletins, etc.

Cooperating with farm labor committee. Many county agents serving in advisory capacity on migratory labor subcommittees.

Survey of delivery of farm products to market has been made to indicate possible savings in travel.

Leader-training meetings held in communities to consider nutrition program, and series of study groups planned for leaders. Illustrated lectures given to women's clubs, church groups, school assemblies, youth groups, labor unions.

County training meetings for leaders representing 500 discussion groups being conducted every county. Theme - "Defense Begins at Home".

Assistance given in establishing a program, under State Defense Council, for care of children of mothers working in agriculture and defense industries.

New Jersey 4-H Victory Corps, divided into squads, is carrying on various wartime activities. Projects include farm machinery, farm labor, farm and home safety, home service, health gardens, food conservation, home beautification, poultry, eggs, beef, pork, milk, thrift clothing.

TENNESSEE (April 15-30).--Victory committees of farm and home leaders selected 2,387 communities and now functioning as organization through which war activities will be carried out among farm people. 233 such committees composed Negro farm and home leaders. 94 counties have 1,221 local leaders serving on County Planning Committees.

April 26 to May 2 proclaimed as "Home Food Supply and Better Nutrition Week" by Governor, with intensive campaign during week by farm and home agents to acquaint general public with importance production home food supplies, well-balanced diets, etc. Every farm family urged to enroll in program. Goal - production 75 percent or more of foods needed for adequate diets.

More than 74,000 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Clubs in Tennessee pledged themselves for the fullest possible contribution to all-out war effort during 4-H Mobilization Week.

Reports from individual counties show increased attention poultry production and putting out baby chicks; planting large acreages soybeans and peanuts; machinery repair demonstrations; nutritional cooking schools sponsored; collection scrap metals; sewing-machine clinics; victory garden programs under way.

WISCONSIN (May 1).--Practically all counties completed appointment township voluntary war service committees totaling 75,000 volunteers. Now establishing neighborhood groups. Organization complete to function in any emergency.

Victory Garden council organized each county composed representatives all interested governmental and local agencies. Educational work being done through broad system of local leadership with average of 150 leaders per county. Provision made to reach by demonstration all farm and village gardeners. 70,000 copies of garden plan distributed.

Home demonstration agents working with township nutrition leaders and neighborhood leaders in giving specific help in food preservation to every rural family in State.

County farm labor committees appointed, with subcommittees in townships, to provide complete mobilization and direction of persons for farm work. Cooperating with U. S. Employment Service. County agents chairmen of committees in counties.

Working with Forest Products Laboratory in helping farmer direct all possible veneer logs into war use.